

**FILED VIA MAIL****APR 08 2019**Clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court  
Middle District of Florida  
Tampa Division☐ Check if this is an  
amended filing

Fill in this information to identify your case:

United States Bankruptcy Court for the:

**MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA**

Case number (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter you are filing under:

- ☐ Chapter 7  
☐ Chapter 11  
☐ Chapter 12  
☒ Chapter 13

**Official Form 101****Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy****12/17**

The bankruptcy forms use you and Debtor 1 to refer to a debtor filing alone. A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together—called a joint case—and in joint cases, these forms use you to ask for information from both debtors. For example, if a form asks, "Do you own a car," the answer would be yes if either debtor owns a car. When information is needed about the spouses separately, the form uses Debtor 1 and Debtor 2 to distinguish between them. In joint cases, one of the spouses must report information as Debtor 1 and the other as Debtor 2. The same person must be Debtor 1 in all of the forms.

Be as complete and accurate as possible. If two married people are filing together, both are equally responsible for supplying correct information. If more space is needed, attach a separate sheet to this form. On the top of any additional pages, write your name and case number (if known). Answer every question.

**Part 1: Identify Yourself**

# 147570

**About Debtor 1:****About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):****1. Your full name**

Write the name that is on your government-issued picture identification (for example, your driver's license or passport).

Bring your picture identification to your meeting with the trustee.

**Richard**

First Name

**Joseph**

Middle Name

**Tringali**

Last Name

Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Suffix (Sr., Jr., II, III)

**2. All other names you have used in the last 8 years**

Include your married or maiden names.

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

**3. Only the last 4 digits of your Social Security number or federal Individual Taxpayer Identification number (ITIN)**xxx - xx - 6 4 2 3

OR

9xx - xx - \_\_\_\_\_

xxx - xx - \_\_\_\_\_

OR

9xx - xx - \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Any business names and Employer Identification Numbers (EIN) you have used in the last 8 years**

Include trade names and doing business as names

☒ I have not used any business names or EINs.

Business name

Business name

Business name

☐ I have not used any business names or EINs.

Business name

Business name

Business name

Debtor 1 **Richard Joseph Tringali**

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**About Debtor 1:**

EIN \_\_\_\_\_

EIN \_\_\_\_\_

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

EIN \_\_\_\_\_

EIN \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Where you live****61st Terrace East**

Number Street

**Ellenton**

City

**FL**

State

**34222**

ZIP Code

**Manatee**

County

If your mailing address is different from the one above, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number Street

P.O. Box

City

State

ZIP Code

Number Street

City

State

ZIP Code

County

If Debtor 2's mailing address is different from yours, fill it in here. Note that the court will send any notices to you at this mailing address.

Number Street

P.O. Box

City

State

ZIP Code

**6. Why you are choosing this district to file for bankruptcy**

Check one:

☒ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason. Explain.  
(See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

Check one:

☐ Over the last 180 days before filing this petition, I have lived in this district longer than in any other district.

☐ I have another reason. Explain.  
(See 28 U.S.C. § 1408.)

**Part 2: Tell the Court About Your Bankruptcy Case****7. The chapter of the Bankruptcy Code you are choosing to file under**

Check one: (For a brief description of each, see Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 1010)). Also, go to the top of page 1 and check the appropriate box.

☐ Chapter 7

☐ Chapter 11

☐ Chapter 12

☒ Chapter 13

Debtor 1 **Richard Joseph Tringali**

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**8. How you will pay the fee**

- ☒ **I will pay the entire fee when I file my petition.** Please check with the clerk's office in your local court for more details about how you may pay. Typically, if you are paying the fee yourself, you may pay with cash, cashier's check, or money order. If your attorney is submitting your payment on your behalf, your attorney may pay with a credit card or check with a pre-printed address.
- ☐ **I need to pay the fee in installments.** If you choose this option, sign and attach the Application for Individuals to Pay The Filing Fee in Installments (Official Form 103A).
- ☐ **I request that my fee be waived** (You may request this option only if you are filing for Chapter 7. By law, a judge may, but is not required to, waive your fee, and may do so only if your income is less than 150% of the official poverty line that applies to your family size and you are unable to pay the fee in installments). If you choose this option, you must fill out the Application to Have the Chapter 7 Filing Fee Waived (Official Form 103B) and file it with your petition.

**9. Have you filed for bankruptcy within the last 8 years?**

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes.

District _____	When _____	Case number _____
	MM / DD / YYYY	
District _____	When _____	Case number _____
	MM / DD / YYYY	
District _____	When _____	Case number _____
	MM / DD / YYYY	

**10. Are any bankruptcy cases pending or being filed by a spouse who is not filing this case with you, or by a business partner, or by an affiliate?**

- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes.

Debtor _____	Relationship to you _____	
District _____	When _____	Case number, _____
	MM / DD / YYYY	if known
Debtor _____	Relationship to you _____	
District _____	When _____	Case number, _____
	MM / DD / YYYY	if known

**11. Do you rent your residence?**

- ☒ No. Go to line 12.
- ☐ Yes. Has your landlord obtained an eviction judgment against you?
- ☐ No. Go to line 12.
- ☐ Yes. Fill out Initial Statement About an Eviction Judgment Against You (Form 101A) and file it as part of this bankruptcy petition.

Debtor 1 **Richard Joseph Tringali**

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 3: Report About Any Businesses You Own as a Sole Proprietor**

12. Are you a sole proprietor of any full- or part-time business?
- ☒ No. Go to Part 4.
- ☐ Yes. Name and location of business

A sole proprietorship is a business you operate as an individual, and is not a separate legal entity such as a corporation, partnership, or LLC.

If you have more than one sole proprietorship, use a separate sheet and attach it to this petition.

Name of business, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Check the appropriate box to describe your business:

- ☐ Health Care Business (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(27A))
- ☐ Single Asset Real Estate (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(51B))
- ☐ Stockbroker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(53A))
- ☐ Commodity Broker (as defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(6))
- ☐ None of the above

13. Are you filing under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code and are you a small business debtor?

For a definition of small business debtor, see 11 U.S.C. § 101(51D).

If you are filing under Chapter 11, the court must know whether you are a small business debtor so that it can set appropriate deadlines. If you indicate that you are a small business debtor, you must attach your most recent balance sheet, statement of operations, cash-flow statement, and federal income tax return or if any of these documents do not exist, follow the procedure in 11 U.S.C. § 1116(1)(B).

- ☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 11.
- ☐ No. I am filing under Chapter 11, but I am NOT a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.
- ☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 11 and I am a small business debtor according to the definition in the Bankruptcy Code.

**Part 4: Report If You Own or Have Any Hazardous Property or Any Property That Needs Immediate Attention**

14. Do you own or have any property that poses or is alleged to pose a threat of imminent and identifiable hazard to public health or safety? Or do you own any property that needs immediate attention?
- ☒ No
- ☐ Yes. What is the hazard?

If immediate attention is needed, why is it needed?

For example, do you own perishable goods, or livestock that must be fed, or a building that needs urgent repairs?

Where is the property? \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

Debtor 1 **Richard Joseph Tringali**

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 5: Explain Your Efforts to Receive a Briefing About Credit Counseling****15. Tell the court whether you have received a briefing about credit counseling.**

The law requires that you receive a briefing about credit counseling before you file for bankruptcy. You must truthfully check one of the following choices. If you cannot do so, you are not eligible to file.

If you file anyway, the court can dismiss your case, you will lose whatever filing fee you paid, and your creditors can begin collection activities again.

**About Debtor 1:**

You must check one:

- ☒ I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:

☐ **Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

☐ **Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

☐ **Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

**About Debtor 2 (Spouse Only in a Joint Case):**

You must check one:

- ☐ I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, and I received a certificate of completion.

Attach a copy of the certificate and the payment plan, if any, that you developed with the agency.

- ☐ I received a briefing from an approved credit counseling agency within the 180 days before I filed this bankruptcy petition, but I do not have a certificate of completion.

Within 14 days after you file this bankruptcy petition, you MUST file a copy of the certificate and payment plan, if any.

- ☐ I certify that I asked for credit counseling services from an approved agency, but was unable to obtain those services during the 7 days after I made my request, and exigent circumstances merit a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement.

To ask for a 30-day temporary waiver of the requirement, attach a separate sheet explaining what efforts you made to obtain the briefing, why you were unable to obtain it before you filed for bankruptcy, and what exigent circumstances required you to file this case.

Your case may be dismissed if the court is dissatisfied with your reasons for not receiving a briefing before you filed for bankruptcy.

If the court is satisfied with your reasons, you must still receive a briefing within 30 days after you file. You must file a certificate from the approved agency, along with a copy of the payment plan you developed, if any. If you do not do so, your case may be dismissed.

Any extension of the 30-day deadline is granted only for cause and is limited to a maximum of 15 days.

- ☐ I am not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling because of:

☐ **Incapacity.** I have a mental illness or a mental deficiency that makes me incapable of realizing or making rational decisions about finances.

☐ **Disability.** My physical disability causes me to be unable to participate in a briefing in person, by phone, or through the internet, even after I reasonably tried to do so.

☐ **Active duty.** I am currently on active military duty in a military combat zone.

If you believe you are not required to receive a briefing about credit counseling, you must file a motion for waiver of credit counseling with the court.

Debtor 1 **Richard Joseph Tringali**

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 6: Answer These Questions for Reporting Purposes**

- 16. What kind of debts do you have?**
- 16a. Are your debts primarily consumer debts?** *Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."
- ☐ No. Go to line 16b.
- ☒ Yes. Go to line 17.
- 16b. Are your debts primarily business debts?** *Business debts* are debts that you incurred to obtain money for a business or investment or through the operation of the business or investment.
- ☐ No. Go to line 16c.
- ☐ Yes. Go to line 17.
- 16c. State the type of debts you owe that are not consumer or business debts.**
- 
- 17. Are you filing under Chapter 7?**
- Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available for distribution to unsecured creditors?**
- ☒ No. I am not filing under Chapter 7. Go to line 18.
- ☐ Yes. I am filing under Chapter 7. Do you estimate that after any exempt property is excluded and administrative expenses are paid that funds will be available to distribute to unsecured creditors?
- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- 18. How many creditors do you estimate that you owe?**
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1-49 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1,000-5,000   | <input type="checkbox"/> 25,001-50,000     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 50-99           | <input type="checkbox"/> 5,001-10,000  | <input type="checkbox"/> 50,001-100,000    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 100-199         | <input type="checkbox"/> 10,001-25,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> More than 100,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 200-999         |  |  |
- 19. How much do you estimate your assets to be worth?**
- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000      | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion        |
- 20. How much do you estimate your liabilities to be?**
- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$0-\$50,000                   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,001-\$10 million    | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,000,001-\$1 billion     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,001-\$100,000             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,001-\$50 million   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000,000,001-\$10 billion  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> \$100,001-\$500,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50,000,001-\$100 million  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000,000,001-\$50 billion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500,001-\$1 million          | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100,000,001-\$500 million | <input type="checkbox"/> More than \$50 billion        |

Debtor 1 Richard Joseph Tringali

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**Part 7: Sign Below****For you**

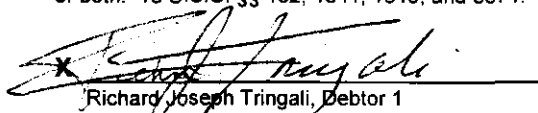
I have examined this petition, and I declare under penalty of perjury that the information provided is true and correct.

If I have chosen to file under Chapter 7, I am aware that I may proceed, if eligible, under Chapter 7, 11, 12, or 13 of title 11, United States Code. I understand the relief available under each chapter, and I choose to proceed under Chapter 7.

If no attorney represents me and I did not pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help me fill out this document, I have obtained and read the notice required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b).

I request relief in accordance with the chapter of title 11, United States Code, specified in this petition.

I understand making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

  
Richard Joseph Tringali, Debtor 1

Executed on 04/05/2019  
MM / DD / YYYY

X

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Debtor 2

Executed on \_\_\_\_\_  
MM / DD / YYYY

Debtor 1 Richard Joseph Tringali

Case number (if known) \_\_\_\_\_

**For you if you are filing this bankruptcy without an attorney**

The law allows you, as an individual, to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, but **you should understand that many people find it extremely difficult to represent themselves successfully. Because bankruptcy has long-term financial and legal consequences, you are strongly urged to hire a qualified attorney.**

**If you are represented by an attorney, you do not need to file this page.**

To be successful, you must correctly file and handle your bankruptcy case. The rules are very technical, and a mistake or inaction may affect your rights. For example, your case may be dismissed because you did not file a required document, pay a fee on time, attend a meeting or hearing, or cooperate with the court, case trustee, U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or audit firm if your case is selected for audit. If that happens, you could lose your right to file another case, or you may lose protections, including the benefit of the automatic stay.

You must list all your property and debts in the schedules that you are required to file with the court. Even if you plan to pay a particular debt outside of your bankruptcy, you must list that debt in your schedules. If you do not list a debt, the debt may not be discharged. If you do not list property or properly claim it as exempt, you may not be able to keep the property. The judge can also deny you a discharge of all your debts if you do something dishonest in your bankruptcy case, such as destroying or hiding property, falsifying records, or lying. Individual bankruptcy cases are randomly audited to determine if debtors have been accurate, truthful, and complete. **Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned.**

If you decide to file without an attorney, the court expects you to follow the rules as if you had hired an attorney. The court will not treat you differently because you are filing for yourself. To be successful, you must be familiar with the United States Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and the local rules of the court in which your case is filed. You must also be familiar with any state exemption laws that apply.

Are you aware that filing for bankruptcy is a serious action with long-term financial and legal consequences?

- ☐ No  
☒ Yes

Are you aware that bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime and that if your bankruptcy forms are inaccurate or incomplete, you could be fined or imprisoned?


- ☐ No  
☒ Yes

Did you pay or agree to pay someone who is not an attorney to help you fill out your bankruptcy forms?

- ☐ No  
☒ Yes. Name of Person Julie M. Jefferson

Attach *Bankruptcy Petition Preparer's Notice, Declaration, and Signature* (Official Form 119).

By signing here, I acknowledge that I understand the risks involved in filing without an attorney. I have read and understood this notice, and I am aware that filing a bankruptcy case without an attorney may cause me to lose my rights or property if I do not properly handle the case.

  
 Richard Joseph Tringali, Debtor 1  
 Date 04-05-2019  
 MM/DD/YYYY

X

Signature of Debtor 2

Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 MM/DD/YYYY

Contact phone (727) 560-9109

Contact phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address rtringali@gmail.com

Email address \_\_\_\_\_



**UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
TAMPA DIVISION**

IN RE: **Richard Joseph Tringali**

CASE NO

CHAPTER **13**

**VERIFICATION OF CREDITOR MATRIX**

The above named Debtor hereby verifies that the attached list of creditors is true and correct to the best of his/her knowledge.

Date 04-05-2019

Signature



**Richard Joseph Tringali**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Barclays Bank Delaware  
P.O. Box 8801  
Wilmington, DE 19899-8801

Calvary Portfolio  
500 Summit Lake Drive, Suite 400  
Valhalla, NY 10595

Capital One Bank USA  
P.O. Box 30285  
Salt Lake City, UT 84130-0287

Chase Bank  
P.O. Box 15298  
Wilmington, DE 19850

Chase Card  
P.O. Box 15298  
Wilmington, DE 19850

Chase Card/Cardmember Service  
P.O. Box 6294  
Carol Stream, IL 60197-6294

Citicards/CBNA/ATT Universal  
P.O. Box 9001037  
Louisville, KY 40290-1037

Credit Protection Association  
P.O. Box 802068  
Dallas, TX 75380

Freedom Mortgage  
1505 N. Florida Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33602

Kass Shuler, PA  
1505 N. Florida Ave.  
Tampa, FL 33602

Midland Funding  
2365 Northside Dr., #300  
San Diego, CA 92108

Sears/CBNA  
P.O. Box 6275  
Sioux Falls, SD 57117

SYNCB/Sam's Club Credit Payment Processi  
P.O. Box 530942  
Atlanta, GA 30353-0942

Synchrony Bank  
P.O. Box 105972  
Atlanta, GA 30348-5972

TD Auto Finance  
P.O. Box 16035  
Lewiston, ME 04243

TD Auto Finance  
P.O. Box 9223  
Farmington, MI 48333-9223

USAA Federal Savings Bank  
10750 McDermott Freeway  
San Antonio, TX 78288-9876

## Notice Required by 11 U.S.C. § 342(b) for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy (Form 2010)

### This notice is for you if:

- **You are an individual filing for bankruptcy,**  
and
- **Your debts are primarily consumer debts.**  
*Consumer debts* are defined in 11 U.S.C. § 101(8) as "incurred by an individual primarily for a personal, family, or household purpose."

### The types of bankruptcy that are available to individuals

Individuals who meet the qualifications may file under one of four different chapters of the Bankruptcy Code:

- Chapter 7 -- Liquidation
- Chapter 11 -- Reorganization
- Chapter 12 -- Voluntary repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen
- Chapter 13 -- Voluntary repayment plan for individuals with regular income

**You should have an attorney review your decision to file for bankruptcy and the choice of chapter.**

### Chapter 7: Liquidation

	\$245	filing fee
	\$75	administrative fee
+	\$15	trustee surcharge
	<u>\$335</u>	total fee

Chapter 7 is for individuals who have financial difficulty preventing them from paying their debts and who are willing to allow their non-exempt property to be used to pay their creditors. The primary purpose of filing under chapter 7 is to have your debts discharged. The bankruptcy discharge relieves you after bankruptcy from having to pay many of your pre-bankruptcy debts. Exceptions exist for particular debts, and liens on property may still be enforced after discharge. For example, a creditor may have the right to foreclose a home mortgage or repossess an automobile.

However, if the court finds that you have committed certain kinds of improper conduct described in the Bankruptcy Code, the court may deny your discharge.

You should know that the even if you file chapter 7 and you receive a discharge, some debts are not discharged under the law. Therefore, you may still be responsible to pay:

- most taxes;
- most student loans;
- domestic support and property settlement obligations;

- most fines, penalties, forfeitures, and criminal restitution obligations; and
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers.

You may also be required to pay debts arising from:

- fraud or theft;
- fraud or defalcation while acting in breach of fiduciary capacity;
- intentional injuries that you inflicted; and
- death or personal injury caused by operating a motor vehicle, vessel, or aircraft while intoxicated from alcohol or drugs.

If your debts are primarily consumer debts, the court can dismiss your chapter 7 case if it finds that you have enough income to repay creditors a certain amount. You must file *Chapter 7 Statement of Your Current Monthly Income* (Official Form 122A-1) if you are an individual filing for bankruptcy under chapter 7. This form will determine your current monthly income and compare whether your income is more than the median income that applies in your state.

If your income is not above the median for your state, you will not have to complete the other chapter 7 form, the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2).

If your income is above the median for your state, you must file a second form--the *Chapter 7 Means Test Calculation* (Official Form 122A-2). The calculations on the form--sometimes called the *Means Test*--deduct from your income living expenses and payments on certain debts to determine any amount available to pay unsecured creditors. If your income is more than the median income

for your state of residence and family size, depending on the results of the *Means Test*, the U.S. trustee, bankruptcy administrator, or creditors can file a motion to dismiss your case under § 707(b) of the Bankruptcy Code. If a motion is filed, the court will decide if your case should be dismissed. To avoid dismissal, you may choose to proceed under another chapter of the Bankruptcy Code.

If you are an individual filing for chapter 7 bankruptcy, the trustee may sell your property to pay your debts, subject to your right to exempt the property or a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the property. The property, and the proceeds from property that your bankruptcy trustee sells or liquidates that you are entitled to, is called *exempt property*. Exemptions may enable you to keep your home, a car, clothing, and household items or to receive some of the proceeds if the property is sold.

Exemptions are not automatic. To exempt property, you must list it on *Schedule C: The Property You Claim as Exempt* (Official Form 106C). If you do not list the property, the trustee may sell it and pay all of the proceeds to your creditors.

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## Chapter 11: Reorganization

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	\$1,167	filing fee
+	\$550	administrative fee
	<hr/>	
	\$1,717	total fee

Chapter 11 is often used for reorganizing a business, but is also available to individuals. The provisions of chapter 11 are too complicated to summarize briefly.

## Read These Important Warnings

Because bankruptcy can have serious long-term financial and legal consequences, including loss of your property, you should hire an attorney and carefully consider all of your options before you file. Only an attorney can give you legal advice about what can happen as a result of filing for bankruptcy and what your options are. If you do file for bankruptcy, an attorney can help you fill out the forms properly and protect you, your family, your home, and your possessions.

Although the law allows you to represent yourself in bankruptcy court, you should understand that many people find it difficult to represent themselves successfully. The rules are technical, and a mistake or inaction may harm you. If you file without an attorney, you are still responsible for knowing and following all of the legal requirements.

You should not file for bankruptcy if you are not eligible to file or if you do not intend to file the necessary documents.

Bankruptcy fraud is a serious crime; you could be fined and imprisoned if you commit fraud in your bankruptcy case. Making a false statement, concealing property, or obtaining money or property by fraud in connection with a bankruptcy case can result in fines up to \$250,000, or imprisonment for up to 20 years, or both. 18 U.S.C. §§ 152, 1341, 1519, and 3571.

### Chapter 12: Repayment plan for family farmers or fishermen

	\$200	filing fee
+	\$75	administrative fee
	<u>\$275</u>	total fee

Similar to chapter 13, chapter 12 permits family farmers and fishermen to repay their debts over a period of time using future earnings and to discharge some debts that are not paid.

### Chapter 13: Repayment plan for individuals with regular income

	\$235	filing fee
+	\$75	administrative fee
	<u>\$310</u>	total fee

Chapter 13 is for individuals who have regular income and would like to pay all or part of their debts in installments over a period of time and to discharge some debts that are not paid. You are eligible for chapter 13 only if your debts are not more than certain dollar amounts set forth in 11 U.S.C. § 109.

Under chapter 13, you must file with the court a plan to repay your creditors all or part of the money that you owe them, usually using your future earnings. If the court approves your plan, the court will allow you to repay your debts, as adjusted by the plan, within 3 years or 5 years, depending on your income and other factors.

After you make all the payments under your plan, many of your debts are discharged. The debts that are not discharged and that you may still be responsible to pay include:

- domestic support obligations,
- most student loans,
- certain taxes,
- debts for fraud or theft,
- debts for fraud or defalcation while acting in a fiduciary capacity,
- most criminal fines and restitution obligations,
- certain debts that are not listed in your bankruptcy papers,
- certain debts for acts that caused death or personal injury, and
- certain long-term secured debts.

### **Warning: File Your Forms on Time**

Section 521(a)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code requires that you promptly file detailed information about your creditors, assets, liabilities, income, expenses and general financial condition. The court may dismiss your bankruptcy case if you do not file this information within the deadlines set by the Bankruptcy Code, the Bankruptcy Rules, and local rules of the court.

For more information about the documents and their deadlines, go to:

[http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy\\_forms.html#procedure](http://www.uscourts.gov/bkforms/bankruptcy_forms.html#procedure)

A married couple may file a bankruptcy case together--called a *joint case*. If you file a joint case and each spouse lists the same mailing address on the bankruptcy petition, the bankruptcy court generally will mail you and your spouse one copy of each notice, unless you file a statement with the court asking that each spouse receive separate copies.

### **Understand which services you could receive from credit counseling agencies**

The law generally requires that you receive a credit counseling briefing from an approved credit counseling agency. 11 U.S.C. § 109(h). If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must receive the briefing. With limited exceptions, you must receive it within the 180 days **before** you file your bankruptcy petition. This briefing is usually conducted by telephone or on the Internet.

In addition, after filing a bankruptcy case, you generally must complete a financial management instructional course before you can receive a discharge. If you are filing a joint case, both spouses must complete the course.

You can obtain the list of agencies approved to provide both the briefing and the instructional course from:

[http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc\\_approved.html](http://justice.gov/ust/eo/hapcpa/ccde/cc_approved.html)

In Alabama and North Carolina, go to:

<http://www.uscourts.gov/FederalCourts/Bankruptcy/BankruptcyResources/ApprovedCreditAndDebtCounselors.aspx>

If you do not have access to a computer, the clerk of the bankruptcy court may be able to help you obtain the list.

### **Bankruptcy crimes have serious consequences**

- If you knowingly and fraudulently conceal assets or make a false oath or statement under penalty of perjury--either orally or in writing--in connection with a bankruptcy case, you may be fined, imprisoned, or both.
- All information you supply in connection with a bankruptcy case is subject to examination by the Attorney General acting through the Office of the U.S. Trustee, the Office of the U.S. Attorney, and other offices and employees of the U.S. Department of Justice.

### **Make sure the court has your mailing address**

The bankruptcy court sends notices to the mailing address you list on *Voluntary Petition for Individuals Filing for Bankruptcy* (Official Form 101). To ensure you receive information about your case, Bankruptcy Rule 4002 requires that you notify the court of any changes in your address.